

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,307

Examiner

Alvin H. Tan

Applicant(s)

HONDA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/6/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6,8-14 and 16-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George B. F. Yee on December 6, 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-14, 16, and 20-22 as follows:

Claim 1:

On *[line 6]* of the claim, please change "and data" to --and UI (user interface) data--.

On *[line 7]* of the claim, please change "data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup" to --UI data--.

On *[line 8]* of the claim, please change "a job" to --the job--.

On *[line 9]* of the claim, please change "generating a job" to --generating the job--.

On *[lines 10-12]* of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup which have been stored" to --stencil and the UI data stored--.

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On *[line 15]* of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement contains" to --stencil contains--.

On *[line 17]* of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement defines" to --stencil defines--.

On *[line 21]* of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement is" to --stencil is--.

Claim 3:

On *[lines 2-3]* of the claim, please change "the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement is" to --the UI data is--.

On *[line 4]* of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement is" to --stencil is--.

Claim 5:

On *[lines 2-3]* of the claim, please change "the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement contains" to --the UI data contains--.

Claim 6:

On *[lines 2-3]* of the claim, please change "the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement contains" to --the UI data contains--.

Claim 8:

On [line 2] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement contains" to --stencil contains--.

Claim 10:

On [line 5] of the claim, please change "and data" to --and UI data--.

On [line 6] of the claim, please change "data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup" to --UI data--.

On [line 7] of the claim, please change "a job" to --the job--.

On [line 8] of the claim, please change "generating a job" to --generating the job--.

On [lines 9-11] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement which have been stored" to --stencil and the UI data stored--.

On [line 14] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement contains" to --stencil contains--.

On [line 16] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement defines" to --stencil defines--.

On [line 20] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement is" to --stencil is--.

Claim 11:

On [lines 2-3] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement that is managed as" to --stencil as--.

Claim 12:

On [line 6] of the claim, please change "and data" to --and UI data--.

On [line 7] of the claim, please change "data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup" to --UI data--.

On [line 8] of the claim, please change "a job" to --the job--.

On [line 9] of the claim, please change "generating a job" to --generating the job--.

On [lines 10-12] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement which have been stored" to --stencil and the UI data stored--.

On [line 17] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement defines" to --stencil defines--.

On [line 21] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement is" to --stencil is--.

Claim 13:

On [line 6] of the claim, please change "and data" to --and UI data--.

On [lines 8-9] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement and data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup having" to --stencil and the UI data having--.

On [line 10] of the claim, please change "data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup is" to --UI data is--.

On [line 11] of the claim, please change "a job" to --the job--.

On [line 12] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement contains" to --stencil contains--.

On [line 14] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement defines" to --stencil defines--.

On [line 18] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement is" to --stencil is--.

Claim 14:

On [line 5] of the claim, please change "and data" to --and UI data--.

On [line 6] of the claim, please change "data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup is" to --UI data is--.

On [line 7] of the claim, please change "a job" to --the job--.

On [line 8] of the claim, please change "a job" to --the job--.

On [lines 9-11] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement which have been stored" to --stencil and the UI data stored--.

On [line 14] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement contains" to --stencil contains--.

On [line 16] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement defines" to --stencil defines--.

On [line 20] of the claim, please change "stencil for the job definition statement is" to --stencil is--.

Claim 16:

On [line 6] of the claim, please change "about data" to --about first data--.

On [line 7] of the claim, please change "and data" to --and second data--.

On [line 7] of the claim, please change "the data" to --the first data--.

On [line 12] of the claim, please change "the element" to --element--.

On [line 12] of the claim, please change "a policy" to --the policy--.

On [lines 14-15] of the claim, please change "the data prescribing a user interface for setting the policy rule which is stored" to --the second data stored--.

On [line 18] of the claim, please change "a policy" to --the policy--.

On [line 20] of the claim, please change "the information about data concerning the policy rule contains" to --the first data contains--.

On [line 25] of the claim, please change "element in the job definition statement" to --element--.

On [line 27] of the claim, please change "policy rules" to --policy grouping rules--.

On [line 28] of the claim, please change "policy rules" to --policy grouping rules--.

Claim 20:

On [lines 2-4] of the claim, please change "information about instances of data concerning the policy rule and information about instances of data prescribing a user

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interface for setting the policy rule” to --multiple instances of the first data and multiple instances of the second data--.

Claim 21:

On *[line 2]* of the claim, please change “stencil for the job definition statement contains” to --stencil contains--.

Claim 22:

On *[line 2]* of the claim, please change “stencil for the job definition statement contains” to --stencil contains--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, and 16-22 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Examiner has carefully considered claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, and 16-22.

The closest prior art, Park et al (Pub. No US 2001/0039594 A1), teaches a method for enforcing workflow processes for website development and maintenance *[paragraph 10, lines 1-2]*. Upon completion of a task, approval of the work performed may be required by one or more entities before further work is done to the resulting file or files *[paragraph 12, lines 1-3, 9-14]*. A template script contained within a workflow template file *[paragraph 56, lines 5-7]* along with workflow markup sets the workflow

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rules *[paragraph 44, lines 1-3]* used to create a job specification file *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*. A job may be created through end-user input from a browser interface *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*. The job specification file is preferably structured as a hierarchy of sections, each containing an element definition that provides for control of a job parameter. An initial <workflow> section defines the overall characteristics of the job, which may include the job's name, owner, creator, and a description of what the job does *[paragraph 34, lines 5-12]*. One or more task sections that describe tasks to occur as part of the job follow the initial <workflow> section of the job specification file *[paragraph 36, lines 1-6]*. Each of the elements that define sections in a job specification file may include a start attribute which specifies whether the task should be active upon invocation of a job that contains the task *[paragraph 36, lines 10-12]*, a timeout limit for completion of a task (e.g. when the timeout is exceeded, the task may be deactivated and a next task element activated) *[paragraph 36, lines 19-21]*, and an indication as to when the task is to become active (e.g. when signaled by a preceding task) *[paragraph 36, lines 22-26]*. A sub-element may specify possible alternative sets of successor tasks to signal when the task is completed *[paragraph 37, lines 1-5]* and an <endtask> element indicates the end of a job. When an <endtask> element becomes active, its containing job may be terminated and all locks held by the job released *[paragraph 37, lines 20-23]*.

Nowhere in Park, nor any of the cited arts of records discloses, suggests, nor teaches a method for an information processing system including a plurality of information processing devices that execute a policy command action concerning a

same job wherein the information processing system interprets elements in the job definition statement and executes a corresponding process for each element, the elements including a root element in the job definition statement, referred to as a policy, an element for grouping policy conditions and policy actions, referred to as policy rules, an element for grouping a plurality of the policy rules, referred to as a policy group, an element that waits for an event, referred to as a policy wait event condition, an element that waits for a specified amount of time, referred to as a policy schedule condition, an element that waits for a specified policy command action to terminate referred to as a policy command result condition, and an element that defines a validity period of a root policy rule, referred to as a policy rule validity period, as recited in claim 1. Similar subject matter is disclosed in independent claims 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin H. Tan whose telephone number is 571-272-8595. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:30-7 and alternating Fridays 9:30-6.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AHT
Assistant Examiner
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TADESSE HAILU

Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tadesse Hailu", written over the printed name and title.